

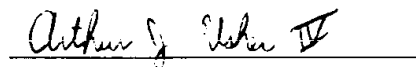
REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13, 15-22, 24-29, and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Roller et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,934,798. The office action of May 22, 2002 stated that claims 12, 14, 23 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant continues to believe that the claims previously submitted are allowable over the art of record. Applicant, however, wishes to expedite the issuance of a patent for subject matter already indicated to be allowable. Thus, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter previously claimed in claim 12. Applicant has amended independent claim 16 to include the subject matter previously claimed in claim 23 via claim 22. Applicant has amended independent claim 26 to include the subject matter previously claimed in claim 30. Applicant has cancelled claims 12, 22, 23, 30 and 33. Independent claims 1, 16 and 26 now embody the subject matter of previously objected to claims 12, 23 and 30 that were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. All remaining claims 2-11, 13-15, 17-21, 24-25, 27-29 and 31-32 are dependent on the allowable as rewritten independent claims.

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. The application as amended is believed to be in condition for allowance based on the statements made in the Examiner's office action of May 22, 2003. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any outstanding matters application.

Respectfully submitted:



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